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pattens of the same size, also made of copper, in use in the south of France. One of the plates in the Museum forms a cover for another, and is pierced with an opening, which is over a hollowed part of the under plate. The arrangements and proportions of the parts are such as to lead us to suspect that these plates, when placed together, may have formed a sort of poor-box, the alms having been dropped through the opening into the cupped part of the lower plate. It may be also observed that, on the most perfectly finished portion of one of these plates, there is the evident wear or impression of the thumb of a person who had, for a considerable time, handled it in the way a mendicant would, who might present it for alms. The back of this plate, and one of the others, has marks of fire on it. Mr. Clibborn also stated that a visitor to the Academy lately recognized these plates, as being very similar to two others, also composed of copper, which had been recently found in Armagh, and which he hoped would be soon deposited in the Museum, as they had been freely offered to our collection. Some light may thus be thrown on the use of these curious articles, which have hitherto been called shields ; there being no evidence as to their original use, nor until lately was there any suspicion entertained of their belonging to the Christian period. From the perfection of the workmanship, and from some analogies in it and in the designs, it was also inferred that the large trumpets in the Museum might have been fabricated by artists of the same school as those who constructed the pattens.

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The Secretary of Council read a translation of a letter from Professor Encke to M. Schumacher relative to Le Verrier's Planet. He also laid before the Academy the following note of observations made by E.J. Cooper, Esq., of Markree Castle, with his transit circle :

## STARS OF COMPARISON.

No. 1. $\iota$ Capricorni.	No. 6. $\iota$ Aquarii.
2. 7451 Brit. Assoc. Cat.	7. 39 do.
3. 7487 do. do.	8. 45 do.
4. 42 Capricorni.	9. 50 do.
5. $\delta$ do.	10. $\sigma$ do.

The following observations must hereafter undergo some modification, particularly those involving a comparison with 39 Aquarii, the declination of that star being lower than that assigned to it in the British Association Catalogue by about four seconds of space.

*Apparent Places deduced from Mean Places, as given in the British Association Catalogue.*

Mean Time, Greenwich.	Apparent Right Ascens.	Apparent Declination.	Compared Stars, &c.
1846.	h. m. s.	° ' " "	
Oct. 3.401067	21 52 32.54	— 13 28 10.40	No. 7.
6.392739	20.74	29 13.93	No. 7. Bisection satisfactory, though blowing hard.
12.376121	0.27	30 53.67	No. 7. Hurried observation of Planet. Cannot depend on it. An opening only momentary in the clouds, which were general at the time.
14.370345	51 54.05	31 24.57	Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. Got only the three first wires of the Planet, which was faint even at these.
16.365063	48.28	53.54	Nos. 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. Good observation.
17.362062	45.73	32 2.03	Nos. 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. Got only the three first wires of the Planet.
19.356785	40.94	36.65	Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. Good observation.
24.343014	30.60	33 19.78	Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. Blowing hard, so that the clock was heard with difficulty; at some wires not at all.
26.337522	21 51 27.85	13 33 38.88	Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. Satisfactory observation. Night had been very unpromising.

Sir W. R. Hamilton gave an account of the first observations of the new Planet made by him at the Observatory of Trinity College, Dublin.

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## DONATIONS.

*Archæologia.* Vol. XXXI. Presented by the Society of Antiquaries of London.

*A Geographical Description of West or Hiar-Connaught,* by Roderick O'Flaherty. Edited by J. Hardiman, M. R. I. A. Presented by the Irish Archæological Society.

*Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.* Vol. XVI. Part 2.

*Proceedings of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.* Vol. II. 1845-46, Nos. 27 and 28. Presented by the Society.

*Address to the British Association for the Advancement of Science.* Southampton, 1846. Presented by the Association:

*Det Kongelige Danske Videnskabernes Selskabs Historiske og Philosophiske Afhandlinger.* 7 Deel.

*Det Kongelige Danske Videnskabernes Selskabs Naturvidenskabelige og Mathematiske Afhandlinger.* 11 Deel.

*Oversigt over det Kongelige Danske Videnskabernes Selskabs Ferhandlinger og dets Midlemmers Arbeider.* I Aaret, 1844 and 1845. Presented by the Royal Society of Copenhagen.

*Reports of the Council and Auditors of the Zoological Society of London.* Read April 29th, 1844. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London.* Part 13. 1845. Presented by the Society.

*Memoirs of the Geological Survey of Great Britain and the Museum of Economic Geology in London.* Vol. I. Presented by the Commissioners of Woods and Forests.

*On the Supply of printed Books from the Library to the Reading-Room of the British Museum.* By A. Pannizzi, Esq. Presented by the Author.

*Animadversions on the Library and Catalogues of the*